

# HEART OF AMERICA

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## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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### Register Now for MRC National Leadership & Training Conference

It's time to register for the MRC 2006 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference, which will be held in Dallas, Texas from April 18-21, 2006. Registration is easy and can be done online. To register, please visit the MRC homepage ([www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)) and click on the "2006 National Leadership & Training Conference" button on the bottom, center portion the screen. This button will display pages with more detailed information on the conference and links to registration, hotel accommodations and more.

In addition to the concurrent sessions, this year's conference will offer a networking/information sharing session (breakout session by MRC unit focus area and affiliation). The session will serve as a forum to discuss key MRC topics/issues (liability, credentialing, sustainability, etc.) with other leaders who come from similar housing organizations, MRC models and unit focus areas—taking into account each other's like circumstances. This will be another outstanding way to share information and best practices. When registering for the conference, please indicate on the registration form which two areas most accurately describe your unit's focus area and affiliation under "Branch/Division." The unit focus areas (attendee affiliation) to choose from include:

- Health Department or Board of Health Based
- Emergency Management Based
- Hospital or Health System Based
- University Based
- Non-Profit Based or Faith Based
- New Unit (established in the past 6-12 months)
- Urban Based
- Rural Based
- Public Health Initiatives Focus
- Medical Surge/Mass Dispensing Focus

Please feel free to send an e-mail message to [MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov), or call (301) 443-4951 with any questions or if you need further assistance. We look forward to seeing you in Dallas, Texas on April 18, 2006!

### Upcoming Events and Training

**Making Sense of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).** Satellite broadcast and live Webcast, 9:00 am-10:30 am CST, March 9, 2006 (rebroadcast at 3:00 pm-4:30 pm CST). Presented by the State University of New York at Albany School of Public Health in partnership with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). For more information and to register, call (518) 486-7921 or visit <http://www.ualbanycph.org/GRS/eventpast.cfm?id=50>.

Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services, Region VII  
601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Room S1801, Kansas City, MO 64106 (816) 426-2829 (816) 426-2178 Fax

**Learning from Katrina: Tough Lessons in Preparedness and Emergency Response.** Webcast on March 31, 2006, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CST. Sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health and CDC. For more information, visit <http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/katrina/index.htm>.

**2006 MRC National Leadership Conference.** April 18-21, 2006 in Dallas, TX. Sponsored by the MRC National Program Office. For more information, visit [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov).

**Ready! The Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference and Exposition.** April 25-27, 2006 in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by GovSec and Ready! For more information, visit [www.readyusainfo.com](http://www.readyusainfo.com).

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD) Conference.** May 9-12, 2006 in Raleigh, NC. Sponsored by NVOAD. For more information, visit [www.nvoad.org/annualconf1.php](http://www.nvoad.org/annualconf1.php).

**Mass Fatality Incidents for Medicolegal Professionals.** May 15-19, 2006 in Ashburn, VA. Sponsored by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). For more information, call (571) 223-3907 or visit the NTSB website at [www.nts.gov/academy/](http://www.nts.gov/academy/).

**5<sup>th</sup> UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters.** May 21-24, 2006 in Long Beach, CA. Sponsored by the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. For more information, visit [www.cphd.ucla.edu/conferenceframe.htm](http://www.cphd.ucla.edu/conferenceframe.htm).

**Risk Communication Challenge: Proven Strategies for Effective Risk Communication.** May 22-24, 2006 in Boston, MA. Sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health. For more information, visit [www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/RCC.shtml](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/RCC.shtml).

## Updating Unit Profiles on the MRC Website

As a registered Medical Reserve Corps director and/or coordinator, you have permission to change the contact information for your unit on the MRC website. To make adjustments to your unit's contact information, log-on to the MRC website ([www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)) using the username and password you created at registration. Once logged in, you will be given the option in the left-hand frame of the website to "Edit MRC Unit." Click on this tab. The next page will include the fields for your MRC unit, which you have the ability to maintain and keep accurate. These fields include:

- ☐ Unit name
- ☐ Jurisdiction
- ☐ Sponsoring organization
- ☐ Point of contact's name
- ☐ Unit address
- ☐ Phone number
- ☐ E-mail address
- ☐ Website address
- ☐ Activation plan
- ☐ Emergency 24/7 contact information
- ☐ Brief unit description
- ☐ Current activities

You may change or update your unit information as often as you like. However, the MRC national program office requests that you update this information at least once every three months. It is important to update your unit profile on a regular basis. Your unit profile may be one of the first places a potential MRC volunteer goes to find information about joining your unit. If your unit profile does not contain any information, or if it contains old information, the individual may lose interest in becoming a part of your unit, and you may have lost a potential volunteer. In addition, current unit contact information is very important during emergencies, when local officials or the MRC national program office may need to contact you quickly.

After making any corrections, simply click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. This will save your updates and post them to the MRC website for all to reference. Please keep in mind that only the MRC national program office staff and you are able to see the emergency contact and activation process information. This information will not be shared with other users of the MRC website.

If you have any technical issues with this feature, please e-mail the Webmaster at [MRCWebmaster@z-techcorp.com](mailto:MRCWebmaster@z-techcorp.com). For all other questions, feel free to contact the MRC national program office at (301) 443-4951 or [MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov).

Thank you very much for ensuring your unit profile is current and reflects your activities and contributions to your communities!

## AHRQ Video on Decontamination of Children

The Agency for Healthcare Resources and Quality (AHRQ) recently released *The Decontamination of Children: Preparedness and Response for Hospital*

*Emergency Departments*, a short (27 minutes) video that trains emergency responders and hospital emergency department staff to decontaminate children who have been exposed to hazardous chemicals during a bioterrorist attack or other disaster. This program provides a step-by-step demonstration of the decontamination process in real time and trains clinicians about the nuances of treating infants and children, who require special attention during decontamination procedures. A short clip from this [video](#) may be found online. A free, single copy of the video, available in DVD or VHS formats, may be obtained by sending an e-mail to [ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov](mailto:ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov).

## Guide for Writing Health Department Disaster Plans

According to the February 22, 2006 issue of the CDC Public Health Law News (available online at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/phlp/Weeklynews.asp>), the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters has published *Writing a Disaster Plan: A Guide for Health Departments*. The guide walks through the development of a comprehensive disaster plan and includes sections on legal preparedness, including examples of disaster related laws from federal, state, and local sources. To download the guidebook, users must register with the UCLA site and obtain a password. See <http://www.cphd.ucla.edu>.

## WMD Basic Disaster Life Support Training Available

The Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) Center for Education is sponsoring a series of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) training courses throughout the month of March. This program is designed to assist health care providers, public health and health care first responders with basic awareness training that will be useful in potential disaster and terrorist-related situations. The training is designed as a beginner course to familiarize health care personnel with the medical issues surrounding a WMD incident. The course is appropriate for local public health providers, hospital staff and ambulance service providers (and MRC members, of course!).

This course is being offered on the following dates:

- Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> in Maryville, MO
- Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis, MO
- Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> in Columbia, MO
- Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> in Cape Girardeau, MO

- Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> in West Plains, MO
- Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> in Rolla, MO
- Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, MO
- Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> in Blue Springs, MO
- Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> in Kirksville, MO

There is no cost to attend the course. However, course registration is required.

All individual who plan to attend the course must register. Registration is on a "first come, first served" basis. An e-mail confirmation of your registration will be provided. Questions about course content should be directed to Brad Strecker at (816) 392-2933 or [bstrecker@mail.mhanet.com](mailto:bstrecker@mail.mhanet.com). Registration must be received five days prior to the day of the program.

This program is approved for 9.3 contact hours in nursing. MHA is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Missouri Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

For more information, contact Melinda Downey at (573) 893-3700 ext. 1330 or [mdowney@mail.mhanet.com](mailto:mdowney@mail.mhanet.com).

Please contact the MHA Center for Education at (573) 893-3700 if you are unable to attend the course for which you have registered so that others may attend. Substitutions are encouraged.

## JCAHO Emergency Planning Guide Available

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) has published *Standing Together: An Emergency Planning Guide for America's Communities*. This guide, developed in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems, and the National Center for Emergency Preparedness at Columbia University, provides emergency planning guidance to small, rural and suburban communities. This guidance is intended to assist local elected and appointed officials, health care providers, public health professionals and other stakeholders in a community's public health, medical and emergency management system. The guidance is available at the JCAHO website:

[http://www.jcaho.org/about+us/public+policy+initiatives/planning\\_guide.pdf](http://www.jcaho.org/about+us/public+policy+initiatives/planning_guide.pdf).